REMARKS

Claims 1-5 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention. No new matter has been added by these amendments. As such, claims 1-5 remain pending. A marked-up version of the amended claims, in which added text is indicated by underlining and deleted text is indicated in brackets, is attached hereto as Exhibit A. A clean copy of the pending claims, as amended, is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

No fee is believed necessary in connection with this submission. However, in the event any fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fee to Deposit Account No. 02-4377.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa B. Kole
Patent Office Registration No. 35,225
Attorney for Applicant
(212) 408-2628

Attachments

EXHIBIT A

Marked-up version of the amended claims

1. (amended) A model system for Hepatitis C virus infection in humans, comprising a non-human [animal] mammal rendered immunologically tolerant to human hepatocytes and subsequently transplanted with human hepatocytes and infected with Hepatitis C virus.

2. (amended) The model system of claim 1, [where] wherein the human hepatocytes are cells of the Huh7 cell line.

3. (amended) A method of preparing a [host] non-human [animal] mammal to receive a human hepatocyte transplant, comprising the steps of:

(i) administering [perinatally] to the [host animal] mammal an effective amount of human hepatocytes, in a form selected from the group consisting of whole cells and a cell lysate, [effective in rendering] wherein the hepatocytes render the [host animal] mammal immunologically tolerant to [subsequent exposure to] human hepatocytes; and [subsequently]

(ii) administering to the [host animal] mammal an effective amount of [a hepatotoxic] an agent, [where] wherein the agent is metabolized by [liver cells] hepatocytes to produce a [DNA alkylating agent] cytotoxin.

4. (amended) The method of claim 3, [where] wherein the agent is retrorsine.

5. (amended) The [non-human animal] method of claim 3 [which has further been transplanted with human hepatocytes] , further comprising, after step ii, the step of introducing human hepatocytes into the mammal, wherein the number of introduced hepatocytes is effective in colonizing the liver of the mammal.